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Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

determining if a first input from a user of a first mobile terminal is made requesting that flexibleselectable acceptance management of incoming calls be initiated for incoming calls not yet initiated to the first mobile terminal;

if said determining step determines that the request has been made, transmitting from the first mobile terminal a first control message to a communication application server representing an instruction to implement flexibleselectable acceptance of future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal, where flexibleselectable acceptance includes storing an initial voice message associated with an incoming call to the first mobile terminal and not automatically transmitting the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal from the communication application server.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving at the first mobile terminal a first alert message from the communication application server representing an incoming call, and generating a first alert output conveying an incoming call request to a user of the first mobile terminal, the first alert message causing the first alert output to be unique to indicate that flexibleselectable acceptance is active, the first alert output being different from another alert output at the first mobile terminal associated with another incoming call to the first mobile terminal without selectable acceptance being implemented.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of determining if a second input from the user of the first mobile terminal is made representing a call-by-call election by the user of whether to requesting that the initial voice message associated with the incoming call with selectable acceptance implemented be transmitted to the first mobile terminal, and if the second input is determined to have been made, transmitting from the first mobile terminal to the communication application server a second control message representing a request to receive the initial voice message.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of ~~determining if a push to talk button is being depressed, and if the determination is made that the push-to-talk button is depressed, transmitting from the first mobile terminal to the communication application server a reply voice message addressed to an originator of the incoming call receiving at the first mobile terminal the initial voice message in response to the transmission of the second control message to the communication application server with selectable acceptance being implemented, the second control message causing the communication application server to transmit the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal with the communication application server providing no indication to an originator of the initial voice message whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.~~

5. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of determining if a second input by the user has been made, and if the second input by the user has been made, causing a stored, prerecorded communication to be sent to a calling party associated with the incoming call.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of automatically sending a stored, prerecorded communication to a calling party associated with the incoming call upon receipt of the first alert message while ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance is in use.

7. (currently amended) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

means for determining if a first input from a user of a first mobile terminal is made requesting that ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance management of incoming calls yet to be initiated to the first mobile terminal;

means for transmitting from the first mobile terminal a first control message to a communication application server representing an instruction to implement ~~flexible~~selectable

acceptance ~~offor future~~ incoming calls to the first mobile terminal if said determining means determines that the request has been made, where ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance includes storing an initial voice message associated with an incoming call to the first mobile terminal and not automatically transmitting the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal from the communication application server.

8. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 7 further comprising means for receiving at the first mobile terminal a first alert message from the communication application server representing an incoming call, and means for generating a first alert output conveying an incoming call request to a user of the first mobile terminal, the first alert message causing the first alert output to be unique to indicate that ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance is active, the first alert output being different from another alert output at the first mobile terminal associated with another incoming call to the first mobile terminal without selectable acceptance being implemented.

9. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 7 further comprising means for determining if a second input from the user of the first mobile terminal is made representing a call-by-call election by the user of whether to request that the initial voice message associated with the incoming call with selectable acceptance implemented be transmitted to the first mobile terminal, and if the second input is determined to have been made, means for transmitting transmits from the first mobile terminal to the communication application server a second control message representing a request to receive the initial voice message.

10. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 9 further comprising means for receiving at the first mobile terminal the initial voice message in response to the transmission of the second control message to the communication application server with selectable acceptance being implemented, the means for transmitting the second control message transmitting the second control message that causes the communication application server to transmit the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal with the communication application server providing no indication to an originator of the initial voice message whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of

~~the user of the first mobile terminal, determining if a push to talk button is being depressed, and if the determination is made that the push to talk button is depressed, means for transmitting transmits from the first mobile terminal to the communication application server a reply voice message addressed to an originator of the incoming call.~~

11. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 8 further comprising means for determining if a second input by the user has been made, and if the second input by the user has been made, means for transmitting causing a stored, prerecorded communication to be sent to a calling party associated with the incoming call.

12. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 8 further comprising means for automatically sending a stored, prerecorded communication to a calling party associated with the incoming call upon receipt of the first alert message while ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance is in use.

13 – 19. Canceled.

20. (currently amended) A method implemented by a communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising the steps of:

receiving a first control message from a first mobile terminal where the first control message represents an instruction to initiate a process providing ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance of yet to be received incoming calls to the first mobile terminal;

in response to the first control message, updating a stored presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with the ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance;

receiving, with selectable acceptance having been implemented by the first mobile terminal, an incoming call from a second mobile terminal for the first mobile terminal where a voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

storing the voice message in memory;

transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal where the incoming call alert message does not contain the voice message.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of receiving a second control message from the first mobile terminal representing a request to transmit the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal in response to receipt of the second control message from the first mobile terminal; the initial voice message being transmitted to the first mobile terminal without providing any indication to the second mobile terminal of whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.

23. (original) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal only in response to receipt of the second control message from the first mobile terminal.

24. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising transmitting a presence status update message to mobile terminals having the first mobile terminal as a Pal upon updating the presence state associated with the first mobile terminal.

25. (original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of not providing any indication to the second mobile terminal of the receipt of the second control message or that the first stored initial voice message was transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

26. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period, before receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal, causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the causing the processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted includes deleting the initial voice message stored in memory.

29. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal before the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period, causing the initial voice message from the second mobile terminal to be transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

30. (currently amended) A communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising:

means for receiving a first control message from a first mobile terminal where the first control message represents an instruction to initiate a process providing ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance of yet to be received incoming calls to the first mobile terminal;

means for updating, in response to the first control message, a stored presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with the ~~flexible~~selectable acceptance;

means for receiving an incoming call, with selectable acceptance having been previously implemented by the first mobile terminal, from a second mobile terminal for the first mobile terminal where an initial voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

means for storing the initial voice message in memory;

means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal where the incoming call alert message does not contain the initial voice message.

31. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for receiving a second control message from the first mobile terminal representing a request to transmit the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal.

32. (currently amended) The communication application server of claim 31 further comprising means for transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal in response to receipt of the second control message from the first mobile terminal, the transmitting means transmitting the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal without providing any indication to the second mobile terminal of whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.

33. (original) The communication application server of claim 31 further comprising means for transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal only in response to receipt of the second control message from the first mobile terminal.

34. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for transmitting a presence status update message to mobile terminals having the first mobile terminal as a Pal upon updating the presence state associated with the first mobile terminal.

35. (original) The communication application server of claim 32 further comprising means for preventing any indication from being sent to the second mobile terminal of the receipt of the second control message and an indication that the first stored initial voice message was transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

36. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period.

37. (original) The communication application server of claim 36 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period before receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal.

38. (original) The communication application server of claim 37 wherein the means for causing the processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted includes means for deleting the initial voice message stored in memory.

39. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing the initial voice message from the second mobile terminal to be transmitted to the first mobile terminal upon receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal before the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period.

40-44. Canceled.

45. (New) A method implemented by a communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising the steps of:

storing a presence state associated with a first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with selectable acceptance;

receiving, following the storing step, a request from a second mobile terminal to initiate a call to the first mobile terminal, where a voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

storing the voice message in memory;

transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal;

where selectable acceptance causes the communication application server to permit the user of the first mobile terminal to elect on a call-by-call basis whether to have the voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal, selectable acceptance inhibiting any transfer of information to the second mobile terminal regarding the election made by the user so that the originator of the voice message at the second mobile terminal cannot determine whether or not the voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby protecting privacy of the user of the first mobile terminal.

46. (New) A communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising:

means for storing a presence state associated with a first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with selectable acceptance;

means for receiving, following the storing step, a request from a second mobile terminal to initiate a call to the first mobile terminal, where a voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

means for storing the voice message in memory;

means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal;

means for implementing selectable acceptance so that the user of the first mobile terminal can elect on a call-by-call basis whether to have the voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal, the implementing means inhibiting any transfer of information to the second mobile terminal regarding the election made by the user so that the originator of the voice message at the second mobile terminal cannot determine whether or not the voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby protecting privacy of the user of the first mobile terminal.